



**PATENT APPLICATION**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroshi KATSURABAYASHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3623

Application No.: 09/386,339

Examiner: S. MEINECKE DIAZ

Filed: August 31, 1999

Docket No.: 104122

For: OPTIMUM OPERATOR SELECTION SUPPORT SYSTEM

**RESPONSE TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the May 19, 2005 Election of Species Requirement, Applicants provisionally elect Species I, directed to the "first aspect of the invention." It is submitted that at least claims 1-4, 8-25, and 28 read on elected Species I. The election is made with traverse.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-28 are sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid

unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 20, 2005

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